

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Scholars' Village Program in the fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Helping Abused Neglected Disadvantaged Youth, located at 1717 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.

HANDY/HOMES Inc's two-acre campus is located at 690 NE 13th Street, Fort Lauderdale Florida 33304. This campus will encompass 30 newly constructed garden-style apartments. The mix will include 15 zero-bedroom studios w/1 bath and 15 two-bedroom, 2-bath units. Six of the units will serve Extremely Low Income (ELI) residents earning $\leq 28\%$ AMI. Young adults formerly in foster care who are eligible for services under Section 409-1451 F.S. Upon completion, Scholars' Village will accommodate up to 45 youth that age out of foster care with affordable furnished apartments and wrap-around support services. HANDY's role will be to coordinate, operate, and supervise the programming for the youth living in Scholars' Village.

In the first four years, after aging out of foster care, approximately 20% of former foster youth will experience homelessness, and nationally, approximately 29% of youth without housing between the ages of 13 and 25 have spent time in foster care. Of the youth aging out of foster care in the United States, 50% who are reunified with prior caregivers (often family) ultimately become homeless, reporting they were subjected to abuse and/or neglect post-reunification. Of those foster youth experiencing homelessness, 61% are likely to become incarcerated compared to 46% of homeless youth who have been in the child welfare system. These statistics are daunting and will be addressed by Scholars' Village. This apartment complex will provide housing and supportive services to these youth to ensure the necessary skills are obtained to acquire self-sufficiency through evidence-based curriculums and programming. Additionally, each young person receives intensive case management and employment readiness training from a social work professional to provide support daily based on the unique needs of the youth. "

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20)
Member of Congress